



"Gillian Stormont"
<gillianinlongbeach@verizon.net>

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To: <EIR@longbeach.gov>
cc: <kell@longbeach.gov>, "Jackie Kell" <kell@ci.long-beach.ca.us>, <mayor@longbeach.gov>, <citymanager@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Long Beach Airport

I am a resident of Long Beach since 1987, first living in North Long Beach (9th District) and, since 1991 living in Northeast Long Beach (5th District). I shop at the Los Altos shopping center directly under the approach flight path to Long Beach Airport. I attended the first of the airport terminal improvement hearings on Tuesday, November 29 at The Grand on Willow in Long Beach.

I fly in and out of Long Beach, for pleasure, mostly on JetBlue but occasionally on America West. I LOVE Long Beach Airport, it is a huge asset to the city, and I will only fly from LAX when forced, e.g. to fly internationally (to Europe). I love the small-town old-fashioned feel of Long Beach Airport, which reminds me of Burbank Airport back in the 70s. In the summer of 2005, when repairs were being made to the runways and flights were diverted to an east-west approach on the weekends (Runway 30?), I feared the worst. There was so much advance publicity about noise, I thought it was going to be a nightmare. Instead, I barely noticed the jets coming in for a landing. Much worse to me is the daily assault from commuter planes and the horrendous Sheriff's (and other) helicopters. They are much louder, and the noise continues for much longer, than any quiet JetBlue plane. I have stood in the parking lot outside Sears and Bristol Farms in the Los Altos shopping center under the flight path – WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL!

And, no, I don't like noise and, yes, I am in favor of quiet planes ...and a nighttime curfew.

Bottom line, I love Long Beach Airport but the terminal definitely needs improvement. I traveled to NY as recently as this past Christmas. The terminal was jammed, and the baggage claim area is pitiful. I am absolutely in favor of terminal improvement but PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THE ORIGINAL TERMINAL WITH ITS ART DECO ARCHITECTURE TO BE DESTROYED. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF WHAT THE NEW TERMINAL WILL LOOK LIKE – THE INFORMATION PROVIDED AT THE AIRPORT HEARING IN NOVEMBER WAS SKETCHY. This is an opportunity for Long Beach Airport to make a significant architectural contribution to the city, not just another "any old" airport, but a contribution to the city's heritage even as we move into the 21st Century. Please select an architect who can deliver the goods. AND LET'S MOVE FORWARD! Thank you.

Gillian Stormont
5534 Flagstone Street
Long Beach, CA 90808